A REVIEW OF THE STATE OF THE BRITISH NATION.

Saturday, August 13. 1709.

A Man in his Senses would think, the worst natur'd Wretch in the Town could hardly find out an Argument to make Use of, against collecting Charity for the poor Strangers now among us——

But when it comes to the Point, how lamely, how baldly do some come off of it—— I'll give them nothing, says Mr. Deputy *Save-all*, the... Maker, for I do not know upon what DESIGN they are come hither.

Why, really Good-man Deputy is in the right, if he understood, what he himself meant by the Word DESIGN; for if these People came over with a *Design* in that Gentleman's learned Sense, *then indeed*, He and the rest of the Gentlemen of the like Magnitude of Understanding might have some Reason to be cautious and close-fisted to them—— But, *in order to treat this Jest in more earnest than it deserves*, I shall take a little Notice of the Thing call'd DESIGN, as this Gentleman means it, and as it is apply'd to these poor Peoples coming over, which is as much to the Honour of this Nation, as if they had been all persecuted for Conscience.

Some People would pretend to be surpriz'd, when they hear, that these People are not come over hither for Religion, that they are not persecuted Protestants fled from the Cruelty of the Papists—— They thought, all People that fled hither for Relief, must have been persecuted; and if they had been such, *Oh, what would they have done for them!*

them! But as for these People, they know not what to make of them; and as Mr. *Wou'd-be-Alderman* says, they don't know what the DESIGN of them was in coming over hither.

But are there no Causes in the World, that make People fly from their Habitations but Religion? Tyranny is equally inconsistent with the Ease and Possibility of Living, whether it be *Religious* or *Civil* Tyranny; and People fly from the Impositions of their Task-masters, whether it be on their Liberties or their Consciences—— The *Israelites* came out from *Egypt*, not from the Idolatry of the *Egyptians*, but from their Bondage. Thus the *Flemings*, that came over hither in Q. *Elizabeth*'s Time, and to whom we owe the Skill in and Application to our Woollen Manufacture—fled from the Cruelty of the D. of *Alva*, as well as from the Inquisition—— And therefore when they took Arms at first in the *Low Countries, from which War the Establishment of the* Dutch *as a free People took its Birth*—their first Ensigns had the Bible, and the Tenth-Peny for their Device; the one showing they fought for their Consciences, the other for their Liberties.

Liberty is the next valuable Interest in the World to Religion; Tyranny will make a People fly from their Country, and quit their Habitations, as well as Persecution—And either of these Causes entitles the People to your Hospitality, Kindness, and Charity—and more especially, for that you have found Occasion many Times in *England, ay and yet more in Scotland*, to fly away from both.

Nor is it a little Honour to the *British* Nation, but especially to our Constitution and to our Queen—*as the Author of the* Daily-Courant *has very happily observ'd*, That we are the Refuge now of the oppress'd Nations of *Europe*; whether their Oppressions are of one Sort or other, whether they fly for Conscience Sake or for Liberty Sake—their Eyes are cast hither; here is an open Sanctuary for all the Miserable—Here Liberty reigns, perfect Freedom is the Peculiar of the Country; every Man has a clear Title to, and an undisturb'd Possession of every Thing he honestly gains—and this will make all the World fly to you, if they can—The Name of *Britain* will occur to all the People of *Europe*, when their Tyrannical Rulers ravage and crush them——— Here they can rest from Tyranny, and be secure from the Harpies of the World—who rob Men by Divine Right, and endeavour to put the Sanction of Heaven's Authority, upon the Depredations and Violences they offer to their Fellow Creatures—as if GOD had originally appointed voracious Men, who cannot govern their own Lusts, to govern his other Creatures, and legitimated their horrid Actions, by obliging Mankind to subject themselves to those Vices, which he that made them will punish.

Britain shall now be honour'd from Heaven with being the Refuge of those unhappy Creatures who shall fly, as being invaded by the Fury of Tyrants, and having no Power to act, what GOD in Nature dictates to them in like Case, are forc'd to abandon their native Country, in Quest of a Life more eligible to Human Nature than that of Bondage and Slavery, which Mankind by Nature abhors——There is indeed a Possibility of Mankind's being so entirely suppress'd, their native Spirit crush'd and cow'd, and their very Thought made so abject and base, as to have no Taste of Liberty, no Desire to be free; the native Principle born with every Creature, I mean Love of Liberty, by meer Disuse, and the Ignorance of a better State, seems extinct; all the Fire of the Soul seems quench'd, and the Creature perfectly dispirited, acts the meer Tribe of *Issachar*, is born for Bondage, and lives only like an Ass Couchant. I am sorry to say, we have some of this Spirit yet left among us, and I wish there were less of it among our poor People in *Scotland*, who, if they had but a Taste of that Liberty, which our *Southern* Commons enjoy, wou'd soon depose the Petty-Tyranny of the Masters and Lairds, the Gentry and Nobility, and banish that scandalous Vassalage, that keeps them poor, dejected, miserable, and unable to act towards their own Prosperity. *But this by the way*; 'tis a long Subject, and what I reserve to very be large and every plain upon in its more proper Season.

What

What I am now upon, is this——The poor People we are now ſpeaking of, to the Honour of *Britain*, and to the particular Reputation of the preſent Reign, are come over hither for Liberty—To ſay they were Beggars, and are come over for Bread, is to ſay nothing. They were a flouriſhing People, they come not from barren Mountains, unhealthful Climates, or a poor uncultivated Country—The *Palatinate* is known to be one of the fineſt, moſt fruitful, rich, pleaſant, and healthful Countries in *Europe*—The Land rich, Proviſions plentiful, full of great Cities and Trading Towns, full of People, full of Commerce, and full of Manufactures——The *Rhine* runs thro' it, the *Main* and the *Nekar* traverſe and encompaſs it; three Rivers, the Navigation whereof brings great Trade, and conſequently Wealth to the Inhabitants; they ſend yearly great Quantities of Corn, and Wine, and Cattle into other Countries. The Plains and Dales are fill'd with Corn, the Hills cover'd with Vines, and the whole Country allow'd to be of the moſt pleaſant and moſt fruitful Part of *Germany*.

It is evident they do not come, becauſe their Country won't keep them, or the Earth ſupply their Families with Neceſſaries—— But they are ravag'd by Enemies, they are the Frontier of this bloody War, the *French* have frequently plunder'd their Country, burnt their Cities and Towns, and almoſt every Year exacted Contributions from them, with the utmoſt Rigour—This has impoveriſh'd them—diſcourag'd them, and made them unable to pay the heavy Taxes, their own Prince exacts—— So that between the Rapine of the Enemy, and the Impoſts and Exactions of their own Sovereign, the poor People have been ruin'd, their Labour devour'd, their Properties taken from them by Violence, and they are oppreſs'd and devour'd with unſufferable Injuries.

From theſe Diſtreſſes, they look abroad for an *Aſylum*, a Place of Reſt, a Land where Liberty is eſtabliſh'd, and Property ſecur'd; where what their Induſtry has gain'd, the Government will permit them to enjoy; where they may reap what they ſow, and eat what they earn—where they may call their Souls their own, and may not ſtarve in the midſt of Plenty——And this, they have been told, is to be obtain'd in *England*, above all the Nations of *Europe*——And to this End they fly hither——This is the true Genuine and only DESIGN of their Coming; and if Mr. Deputy ... pleaſes, he may be eaſie, the poor People have no other DESIGN than this, in their coming over; if his Worſhip knows of any other DESIGN, he would be very kind to tell it.

But having thus clear'd up the poor Peoples *Deſign* in coming hither; let us enquire a little into the Deſign of theſe wiſe Gentlemen, in cavilling, raiſing Scruples, ſuggeſting Deſigns, and ſuch Whyms as theſe, upon the poor People at this time. Truly, their DESIGN is evident, and a baſe DESIGN it is; *only*, that being reſolv'd to give nothing to them in the Collection now in hand, or ſo little as they would be aſham'd their Neighbours ſhould talk of, to excuſe their ſcandalous Parſimony and Want of Charity, they would load the poor innocent People with ſome Reproach, if poſſible, as a Reaſon for their cloſing their Hand, when indeed it is nothing but meer Covetouſneſs, and withholding their Hands from their Neceſſities.

And now, Mr. Deputy, if this be the Reaſon, why you were pleas'd to give them but 2*s.* 6*d.* in the late Collection, when your Neighbours, who you would hardly *ſet with the Dogs of your Flock*, gave 10*s.* and 20*s.* a Man. I would humbly deſire you to talk no more of it——but if poſſible be honeſt, and confeſs, that your Pride and Luxury ſo out-run your Charity, that you had at any time rather ſpend 20*s.* to make your Neighbours drunk, and be ſo your ſelf, than give 10*s.* to ſave a poor Stranger ready to periſh from ſtarving.

This would lead me to give the ſame Perſon a Hint, if he pleaſe to take it, how chearfully and with what Statisfaction he has gone to the Church-wardens Dinner in his Pariſh, where they have feaſted themſelves out of the Stock levy'd in the Pariſh for the Poor, not at all examining who was ſtarving for Want of the Money, or for what Uſe it was collected——And if the

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Money rais'd in this City for the Relief of the Poor of the reſpective Pariſhes, is, *or great Part of it*, ſpent by the Collectors, Church-wardens, *&c.* in Treats, in Feaſting and Drunkenneſs ——— Let them not blame the *Review*, if ſometime or other he gives a particular Account of it to the World, for ſure, Robbing on the High-way is a Fool to it.

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Lately Publiſh'd,

Electarum de Lingua Latina Obſervationum Lib i duo. Prior inſcribitur Latinloquendi Norma; *h. e. aurei Latinitatis Seculi* Locutio. *Poſterior Barbare vitioſeve loquendi Conſuetudinem inveſtigat, patefacit, emendat. Uterque in Uſum Juventutis, incorruptæ Latini Sermonis Integritatis ſtudioſæ, confectus. Ductu & Cura* JOANNIS KER. *Londini, apud* J. Robinſon, J. Lawrence, C. Bateman, A. Bell, & J. Hartley, *Bibliopolas Londinenſes.*

This Day is Publiſh'd,

THE Monthly Miſcellany, or Memoirs for the Curious, for *May*, 1709. Vol. III. Containing. *Foſſilia* Sheppeianæ *Catalogus. African* Plants. Plants growing about the *Cape of Good Hope.* Of the Origine of the Art of *Writing.* Continuation of the Diſcourſe of *Languages.* GOD further vindicated, from the Aſperſions of thoſe of the *Upper* and *Lower* Way. Eſſay on Dueling, continu'd.

*** Thoſe for *June* and *July* will follow ſpeedily.

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N. B. His Mother, the Widow of the late Mr. *Chriſtopher Bartlett*, lives at the Place above-mention'd, and is very ſkilful in the Buſineſs of her own Sex.